

The Nirmalya Collection Drive

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As part of the Nirmalya Collection Drive, organised by S.B. Patil Public School, Ravet, in collaboration with Jnana Prabodhini, Nigdi, the school community came together to promote responsible and eco-friendly celebrations during the Ganesh Festival. The initiative aimed to encourage students to celebrate with devotion while being mindful of the environment and the impact of festival waste on rivers and other water bodies.

To create awareness and encourage participation, all the members of the Board of Directors visited the classrooms and spoke to students about the importance of contributing their Nirmalya after the Ganesh Festival. The students responded with great enthusiasm and wholeheartedly supported the initiative. They were encouraged to bring flowers, garlands, leaves and other natural offerings as Nirmalya, while being made aware that items such as Modak, Supari (Areca nut), Haldi/Kumkum, coins, coconuts, plastic, thermocol and other non-biodegradable materials should not be mixed with the collected Nirmalya.

The collection was carried out systematically across different classes, with biodegradable offerings being kept separate from non-biodegradable materials. Students were also encouraged to bring Nirmalya in brown paper bags or newspaper instead of plastic, thereby helping to reduce plastic waste. This simple practice reinforced the message that environmentally responsible celebrations can begin with small, conscious choices.

Students from Jnana Prabodhini School, Nigdi, played an active role in supporting the initiative. Throughout the collection period, they visited S.B. Patil Public School every day to collect the Nirmalya. The flowers, leaves and other biodegradable offerings collected through the drive were subsequently sent for composting and other eco-friendly uses, giving the Nirmalya a new life rather than allowing it to become a source of pollution.



Beyond the collection itself, the initiative helped create awareness about the importance of protecting rivers and water bodies, reducing waste and adopting sustainable practices during festivals. It encouraged students to look beyond the rituals of celebration and understand their environmental responsibility as well. Through their enthusiastic participation, students demonstrated that collective action, even when it begins with something as simple as separating flowers from other waste, can contribute to a cleaner and greener environment.

The Nirmalya Collection Drive was therefore more than just a waste-collection activity; it was an effort to cultivate a sense of environmental responsibility within the school community. It brought students and schools together for a common cause and demonstrated that faith and environmental consciousness can go hand in hand. The initiative successfully conveyed the message, "REUSE NIRMALYA – GIVE IT A NEW LIFE!" and reminded everyone that when each individual contributes a little, the collective impact can be significant in building a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future.